

SUDAN



Protracted humanitarian needs, longstanding human rights abuses, and a series of economic crises resulting from government corruption and inconsistent policies led to widespread citizen protests in 2018. In 2019, demonstrators peacefully assembled in front of the military's headquarters and demanded that the army force the president out. Five days later, the military announced that the president, who was in office for 30 years, had been overthrown.

Country Context

Despite significant development potential and natural resources, Sudan has been plagued by consistent conflict since its independence in 1956. The current nascent political arrangement must contend with complex crises, including conflict, economic shocks, droughts, and floods. Food insecurity—driven by inflation and low purchasing power as well as environmental setbacks from flooding and droughts—was at a record high in September 2019.

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. is the largest donor of international humanitarian aid to Sudan. The U.S. sees Sudan's political transition as an opportunity for Sudan to establish peace and empower all Sudanese, especially women and youth.

Key Figures



9.3 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



42%

of the population suffers from some level of food insecurity



1.96 million

are internally displaced people, refugees, or asylum seekers



364,200

affected by mid-year flooding



\$1.4 billion

requested for humanitarian response in 2020

On-the-Ground Perspective

- The depreciation of the Sudanese Pound drives abnormally high food and imported commodity prices. Essential goods like wheat flour, medicine, fuel, and agriculture inputs are all more expensive than average, fueling rising food insecurity. For example, wheat flour prices in November 2019 were 68% higher than the previous year at the same time.
- In 2019, cash and fuel shortages, as well as weeks-long internet blackouts, severely affected program operations in North Darfur.
- Despite the changing political environment, administrative hurdles—such as obtaining multiple government approvals and high government turnover—continue to delay project start-up.
- Resilience-building development activities are necessary, along with vital humanitarian relief.

Responses and Actions

- In 2018, 80 partners of Sudan's Humanitarian Response Plan (48% national NGOs) reached over 4 million people with humanitarian assistance across all sectors. In quarter one of 2019, humanitarian partners assisted an estimated 1.6 million people.

InterAction has a Sudan and South Sudan working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

